2 15.9

[B.L.]

Chiverton Mayor.

Tueſday the eighth day of *December* 1657.

An Order of the *Lord Mayor* and Court of *Aldermen*, againſt concealing and colouring the goods of *Aliens* and *Foreyners*.

WHereas the Offices of Package, Scavage, Waterbaliage, Portage, and Weighing the Goods and Merchandizes of Alyens and Foreyners, doe perteine unto this City, and for the ſame ſeverall Cuſtomes, Fees and Profits are due, and time out of mind have been payed to the Officers deputed to thoſe places, and been imployed towards reliefe of the Poore, the conſervation of the River of Thames, the maintenance of Hoſpitality, and ſupport of the Magiſtracy of this City, and other publique uſes: And however the trade eſpecially into foreyne parts is now more then ever it hath been in the hands of Alyens and Foreyners, Who have attained to great eſtates under the Government of this City, Without bearing any Charge of the ſame; And yet the profits of the ſaid Offices doe fall exceedingly ſhort of what formerly they have been, to the great hindrance of the good uſes aforeſaid: The decay Whereof, as this Court hath underſtood, is eſpecially cauſed by many ill diſpoſed and unWorthy Freemen of this City, Who mindleſſe of their Oaths & the Laws under Which they live, do in complyance With Alyens and Foreyners ofttimes pretend that the goods they export are their own goods untill they are on Shipboard or beyond the Seas, When in truth ſuch goods are for the accompt of Alyens, or are contracted for by Aliens or Foreyners, and after ſuch contract are the goods of Alyens or Foreyners, and are lyable to the ſaid duties; And divers other Wayes do fraudulently owne and colour the Goods and Merchandizes bought and ſould, taken in or ſent out, by the ſaid Aliens and Foreyners, ſome being received into partnerſhip to colour the Whole, ſome for hire permitting the uſe of their names, and others in their own perſons, and in their own names, buying, ſelling and negotiating, meerly for the uſe and accompt of Alyens and Foreyners, of Which ſort too many ClothWorkers, Packers, and Drawers of Cloth are ſuſpected to frequent the Market of Blackwell-hall, and all to defraud the City of their juſt Rights and Cuſtomes Which by ſtrongeſt Obligations they are bound to maintaine; This Court therefore reſolving to put forth the utmoſt of their power and indeavours for remedy of this ſo great a miſchiefe to the City, and to bring upon the Practicers of the ſaid offences the juſt ſhame and puniſhment due for their perjury and unfaithfulneſſe to the intereſt of the City, according to the Laws and proviſions in this behalfe; Doe require and enjoyne the ſeverall perſons deputed and intruſted in the ſaid ſeverall Places or Offices, and Whom elſe it may concern, to be diligent and active in the finding out and apprehenſion of any the Offenders aforeſaid, and do admoniſh and deſire all other honeſt and Well affected Freemen of this City to be aſſiſtant to them, and as they have opportunity to endeavour as Well the preſervation of the City in its ſaid Rights and Duties, as to diſcover thoſe of its own unnaturall members, and others that would violate and betray the ſame by any the ſaid practices, to be dealt Withall and diſfranchiſed as by Law they ought to be, and doe truely deſerve.

SADLER.

Printed by *James Fleſher*, Printer to the Honourable City of *London*.

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